

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~4~~14, wherein the mesophase pitch has a softening point of 150°C or higher as measured by an elevated flow tester method, and a carbonization yield of 70% or higher.
- 3.-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) A pitch composition comprising 100 parts by weight of mesophase pitch, ~~and~~ 10 to 1,000 parts by weight of coal tar pitch, and sulfur in an amount of 0.1 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the mesophase pitch and the coal tar pitch, and having an optically anisotropic content of 1 to 99% by volume, wherein the mesophase pitch is a pitch produced by polymerizing a condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon or a substance containing the condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon in the presence of hydrogen fluoride-boron trifluoride, and wherein the coal tar pitch contains substantially no quinoline insolubles (QI).
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~5~~14, wherein 1 to 30 parts by weight sulfur per 100 parts by weight of the pitch composition obtained in step (1), is mixed with the pitch composition.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~7~~14, wherein the coke is pulverized to provide a coke powder, and the coke powder is subjected to said graphitizing.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~7~~14, wherein said graphitizing forms a graphite powder.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A process for producing a carbon material for a negative electrode of a non-aqueous solvent type secondary battery, comprising:

(1) mixing 100 parts by weight of mesophase pitch which is produced by polymerizing a condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon or a substance containing the condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon in the presence of hydrogen fluoride-boron trifluoride, with 10 to 1,000 parts by weight of coal tar pitch which contains substantially no quinoline insolubles (QI),

(2) further mixing 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of sulfur per 100 parts by weight of the pitch composition obtained in step (1),

- (3) heat-treating the pitch composition obtained in step (2) at a temperature of 500°C or higher,
- (4) pulverizing the coke produced in step 3, and
- (5) graphitizing the pulverized coke at a temperature of 2000°C or higher.